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Smoking, hitching, cutting the campus were banned at UM

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Office of University Relations • Missoula, Montana 59812 • (406) 243-2522

MEDIA RELEASE

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SMOKING, HITCHING, CUTTING THE CAMPUS WERE BANNED AT UM

By Virginia Vickers Braun
Office of University Relations
University of Montana

MISSOULA--

DID YOU KNOW THAT--

*In 1935 one of the most pressing problems on campus was students walking on the grass? Members of the Bear Paws and Spurs carried whistles to call attention to offenders. Prior to 1931 the Bear Paws carried paddles to punish offenders.

*An interclass tug-of-war between freshmen and sophomore men was a tradition that began shortly after Main Hall was completed in 1898? It used to be held on either side of the irrigation canal down by the Clark Fork River but later was held on the oval with a power water hose furnishing the water menace. The affair usually ended with a free-for-all over control of the hose.

*Prior to 1913 smoking was forbidden on campus? Men who smoked were required to leave their cigars or cigarettes on the old iron fence that used to encircle the campus. Later a ruling was passed that allowed men to smoke behind the buildings and after the war men were allowed to smoke wherever they pleased.

*There used to be a Hobo Club on campus? It was an informal but very exclusive and popular men's group whose members used to travel to football games via boxcar. Members were required to have hitched at least 1,000

(over)

did you know--add one

miles to belong. The club's reputation spread and similar clubs were started at several other colleges in the Northwest. It was officially banned in 1919.

*The rock located to the north of the Oval dated 1898 used to be known as "Spoony Rock"? It was a favorite meeting place for couples from about 1900 until 1916 when its appeal was lessened by better lighting and more cars on campus.

*The May Fete, which began in 1916 as the May Carnival, used to be an annual women's celebration? Maypole dances, float parades, an evening carnival in the old gym, and an open-air drama production used to be part of the festivities. The last May Fete was held sometime in the late '30s or early '40s.

*The sidewalk that runs between the Psychology and Social Sciences Buildings, both of which formerly housed the UM library, used to be known as the "Hello Walk"? All students who walked there were supposed to say hello to each other. The tradition started in 1924 and wasn't much of a success. Too many people used the walk and it took too much time to say hello to everyone.

*Homecoming started in 1919?

*The faculty used to surprise students by canceling classes once a year, usually in the fall? Known as "Sneak Day," the tradition began in 1911, triggered by news that the state legislature had passed the University appropriation. A holiday was declared by the faculty to celebrate. Later Sneak Day became known as Varsity Day and was celebrated after an important football victory. The day was kept secret from the students and was announced by the ringing of the tower bell.

*Freshmen men and women, in the early days of the University, were required to wear green beanies until the first snowfall.

*Although the University was chartered in 1893, it did not officially open until two years later on Sept. 10, 1895?

(more)

*A yearly interscholastic track meet used to bring hundreds of high school students and their teams to UM? The first meet was held May 19 and 20, 1904, and was originally confined to track and field events. Later other events, such as declamation, essay, debate, reading, a theater tournament, golf and tennis, were added.

*Singing on the Steps, one of UM's most beautiful and enduring traditions, was patterned after a similar tradition at the University of California? It was started by Robert Sibley, a young professor of mechanical engineering who came to UM in 1905 and who brought the tradition with him from his alma mater. According to the UM tradition, students are supposed to assemble on the steps of Main Hall at 7:30 p.m., sing, give cheers, and listen to pep talks. After the bells ring eight, there is a moment of silence and the students join in singing the last song, "College Chums."

*The University has had three names? From 1895 until 1913 it was called the University of Montana. From 1913 until 1935 it was the State University of Montana. Until 1965 it was Montana State University when the name was again changed back to the original University of Montana.

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